





UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON DC 20380-1775

MCRCO 1700.2  
MRA  
23 Jan 95

MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND ORDER 1700.2

From: Commanding General  
To: Distribution List

Subj: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

Ref: (a) Navy Regulations 1990, Article 1162  
(b) SECNAVINST 1700.11  
(c) MCO 5300.12  
(d) MCO 1700.22C

1. Purpose. To promulgate policy regarding alcoholic beverages within the Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC). This Order is punitive in nature. Violations are punishable under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

2. Background. References (a) and (b) outline the policy regarding possession, consumption, and sale of alcoholic beverages within the Department of the Navy. Marine Corps policy concerning use and abuse of alcoholic beverages is in reference (c). Reference (d) contains Marine Corps policy concerning the possession, consumption, and sale of alcoholic beverages within the Marine Corps.

3. Policy. Use of alcoholic beverages must be consistent with the overriding need for military readiness, discipline, and community safety. In meeting this objective, the sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages will be governed by the following considerations:

a. Measures to prevent and deter abuse, as provided in reference (c), must be an integral part of the management of alcoholic beverages on Marine Corps activities.

b. Alcoholic beverages should be balanced with non-alcoholic beverages and recreational activities to encourage healthful lifestyles for members, their families, and friends.

c. In the absence of any local laws, the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) shall be 21 years for active duty military personnel.

d. Sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages shall conform to the MLDA of the State in which the activity is located. Except as specifically authorized under this Order, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or give alcohol

to any person under the MLDA. Additionally, it shall be unlawful for any person under the MLDA to purchase, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages.

e. Except as specifically authorized in this Order, the sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages within any Marine Corps activity is prohibited.

f. It shall be unlawful for any person to use or attempt to use a government identification or other form of identification issued to some other person, to obtain alcoholic beverages in violation of any portion of this paragraph.

g. It shall be unlawful for any person to permit the use of his/her identification by any other person to violate or attempt to violate the provisions of this paragraph.

h. Reference (d) provides that installation commanders and officers exercising general courts martial convening authority are authorized to grant an exception to the MLDA under controlled conditions to foster camaraderie and friendship on infrequent, non-routine occasions, such as when a unit marks a unique military event, observes a unit anniversary, or similar occasions. Exemptions may be given based upon the following policy:

(1) Exemptions to the MLDA shall be limited to occasional special events which are conducive to the creation or maintenance of unit morale and esprit de corps. Examples that qualify as special events are the Marine Corps Birthday, mess nights, conclusion of a "recruiting offensive," and other such hallmark events in the life of a unit.

(2) An exemption to the MLDA will ordinarily be authorized only when the official function is for a recruiting station or larger size unit gathering held at a single location.

(3) The event must be held at an installation under naval jurisdiction, and personnel must be in a non-duty status.

(4) Exemptions to the MLDA will not normally be permitted in conjunction with the commencement of an extended liberty period or holiday weekend.

(5) The gathering shall ordinarily be limited to no longer than four hours duration.

(6) Exemptions to the MLDA will be authorized only for malt beverages and wine.

(7) Non-alcoholic beverages will be available in reasonable quantities and when feasible, appropriate food will be provided as well.

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(8) Contests or games which encourage alcoholic consumption are prohibited.

(9) Commanders will ensure appropriate controls are in place to prevent endangering personnel or the surrounding community.

4. Definition. The term "alcoholic beverages" means wines, distilled spirits, and malt beverages.

5. Action. Commanders will issue detailed alcoholic beverage control instructions. These instructions shall conform to local laws, to the extent that such laws are consistent with Federal law and policy, and to the provisions of the references and this Order.

  
J. R. DAVIS

DISTRIBUTION: A